



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6536

January Session, 2009

* _____HB06536HS_____041709_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING LOW INCOME ENERGY PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 16a-41a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (d) If funding allows, the Commissioner of Social Services, in
5 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
6 Management, shall require that, each community action agency
7 administering a fuel assistance program begin accepting applications
8 for the program not later than September first of each year. Once an
9 application is approved, the applicant shall be deemed approved and
10 not be required to reapply for such fuel assistance program for a
11 period of three years.

12 Sec. 2. Section 16-262c of the general statutes is amended by adding
13 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

14 (NEW) (g) The Department of Public Utility Control shall conduct a
15 contested case proceeding to investigate the feasibility, structure and
16 cost of implementing a discounted rate system to make gas and
17 electricity more affordable for low-income customers. On or before
18 January 1, 2010, the department shall report, in accordance with the
19 provisions of section 11-4a to the joint standing committee of the

20 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy
21 regarding the results of such investigation.

22 Sec. 3. Section 16a-41c of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

24 The sum of two million dollars is appropriated from the funds
25 credited to the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009,
26 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1 of public act 08-2 of the August
27 special session* to the Department of Social Services to develop a plan
28 for (1) providing funds for weatherization projects for low-income
29 households participating in the Connecticut energy assistance
30 program, (2) prioritizing assistance to households with incomes below
31 two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, [and] (3)
32 coordinating provision of assistance to maximize effectiveness of the
33 funds with the weatherization assistance provided to low-income
34 households by the municipal electric utility and public service utility
35 companies under programs overseen by the Energy Conservation
36 Management Board pursuant to sections 7-233y, 16-245m and 16-32f,
37 as amended by this act, and the Fuel Oil Conservation Board pursuant
38 to section 16a-22l, and (4) establishing a goal for programs coordinated
39 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection to weatherize in
40 combined total at least thirty per cent of eligible households and
41 reduce energy consumption in each of the households by at least
42 twenty per cent not later than five years after the effective date of this
43 section. No later than November 1, 2008, and at least forty-five days
44 before implementation, the department shall submit such plan to the
45 Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, the Fuel Oil Conservation Board
46 and the Energy Conservation Management Board for input and advice.
47 The Energy Conservation Management Board may order modification
48 of the plan to ensure effective prioritization and coordination of
49 weatherization assistance in accordance with this section.

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| <p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p> |
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| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | 16a-41a(d) |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | 16-262c |
| Sec. 3 | <i>from passage</i> | 16a-41c |

PRI *Joint Favorable C/R* ET

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

HS *Joint Favorable*